

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Diversity of media ownership is critical to a thriving democracy. The right to a diverse media is higher than the right for a corporation to make a profit or control a market. The market has no value other than creating profits for certain individuals, and the common good, in this case, access to diverse portrayals of public events would be stifled by media consolidation.

In my own town, one newspaper, owned by a national chain, carries the majority of "local news" and all of the national news in print form, and the coverage is minimal: there is very little actual discussion of national events, and it is obvious that the newspaper serves the business community and little else. It would be a tragedy for citizen democracy if a television conglomerate was allowed to also own the local newspaper.

Please strengthen the rules that keep media ownership diversified. Do not weaken them.

Thank you.